

ETHANOL[©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – September 29, 2020

The following web site offers an interesting read, as related to corn-produced ethanol, as is currently being mixed with most of the gasoline that we use today.

<https://auto.howstuffworks.com/fuel-efficiency/alternative-fuels/ethanol-damage-engine.htm>

I know that the 2020 severe/freak storms in IOWA have had some major impacts on many corn producers; of course “climate change” (excessive rain, drought, heavy winds, hail, flooding, etc.) will always be of major concern to our Nation’s farmers and some years are certainly better than others!



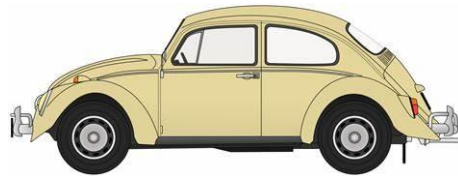
During a 10-day stay in northwestern Iowa in 2017 in conjunction with a visit for my 55-year high school reunion, I observed several ethanol production facilities on the landscape. This prompted me to learn more about USA ethanol production in general. Although not included here, I produced a personal DVD Entitled “SOWING SOME SEEDS IN IOWA” that includes some interesting facts about corn and ethanol production in IOWA; Some of the facts from 2015-2017, as I included in my DVD, are summarized here:

- IOWA is the world’s leader in corn production; most years IOWA out -produces many countries
- 2016 USA corn yields were 15.1 billion bushels; IOWA alone produced 2.5 billion bushels
- No other state in the USA produces more corn than IOWA
- IOWA leads the USA in ethanol production: the USA leads the world
- In 2015/2016, Iowa’s corn production was allocated as follows:
 - *41% for ethanol
 - * 26% for livestock (pigs, chickens, cattle, horses, etc.) feed
 - * 11% for miscellaneous food products
 - * 15% for exports
 - * 7% residual (other)
- In 2015/2016, the above noted 41% of the corn grown in IOWA produced 30% of USA’s ethanol
- During 2016, the USA produced 15.3 billion gallons of ethanol for gasoline additives

-Ethanol:

- * Myth: it takes more energy to produce ethanol than the energy gained
- * Fact: corn & ethanol production is now so efficient that it takes less energy to grow & process the Crop than the amount of energy in ethanol itself

Certainly, at the time I did my research and arrived at all the preceding facts and figures, I would not have known much about ethanol production in the USA at all. However, during the 1-year period of 1979-1980, my wife and I were residents in Rio de Janeiro. During this time and even before, Brazil had encountered extreme economic hardships much to do with their dependence on imported oil. As such, Brazil had been producing ethanol from sugar cane for some years to supplement their gasoline. During our residency, this product was widely known as “gasohol”. Brazil was one of the world’s last producers of the classic Volkswagen “beetle” and there were thousands of them on Rio’s roads. During our stay, it was common to hear these beetles constantly emitting loud “bangs” (explosions) and “popping” sounds as their little engines “protested” against gasohol! Believe me these sounds often shocked us into reality as we walked down the street!



If you are interested in doing your own further research, you will find that there are both “pros” and “cons” to using ethanol as a gasoline supplement. Above all, I believe a question that needs to be asked at this time in September, 2020, is: Now that the USA has proclaimed itself to be “energy independent”, do we really need to continue to supplement our gasoline products with ethanol? I believe the answer is “NO”! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

